

THE CANAIGRE PLANT.

Beginning to Attract Attention in Europe and Even in Australia—What Farmers Could Do.

Of late the canaigre plant for tanning purposes, is attracting much attention, not only in our own country but in Europe and as far down in the other hemisphere as Australia. The demand for the roots for planting and for material for making leather, comes from all sources.

In view of this state of things and the exceeding great demand and value of it for making leather rapidly, it seems best for the farmers in this valley and all over the territory where the plant grows, at this time when the water supply is so uncertain, to engage in this cultivation.

Being indigenous to this arid climate, growing as it does with little or no water, so easily raised, and so very valuable, it can be made lucrative to all who are willing to raise or even dig it in its wild state on the mesas, where it abounds to a considerable extent.

Now if every farmer will plant one to ten acres, he can, in a very short time, realize much more for the roots of the plant than from any other product, grass alfalfa cereal, or vegetable—and that too, on very ordinarily poor soil. I don't mean sand, hard stiff soil or stony ground, but such soils as we find generally in the valley of the Rio Grande.

On the college farm, I have been cultivating canaigre for three years and can speak from experience about its growth and yield, both above water and under irrigation. In October, one, two and three-year-old roots were planted out and the yield of that under water has varied from an estimate of four to ten tons per acre of green roots. When first planted, they were merely thrown into the ground, without its having any previous preparation, in rows two furrows apart and the tubers two feet apart in the rows. Later on the land was plowed shallow and partly ridged up, irrigated in the fall and then again in winter. Each hill that grew made all the way from one pound to four of marketable roots, besides enough small ones to seed the land for the next year. The largest tuber found in digging ten hills at random, weighed 14 ounces and the rest in the hill, exclusive of the one that was planted, weighed more than four pounds. Later experience with its cultivation show that a deep and thorough preparation of the land will amply pay all expense and labor in that line, inasmuch as the roots grow so much larger and more abundant.

The roots to plant out an acre or ten, can be found almost anywhere in the territory, and will cost the farmer no more than his time and the labor of put-

ting them into the ground, cultivating, and irrigating them will be no more than that of an ordinary crop of corn.

I would recommend the planting of the roots right end up by hand, in the absence of better machinery, in rows two feet apart and not more than a foot and a half in the rows—the smaller the roots the better. Irrigate between the rows in the fall and again in winter, because the seeds ripen in May and fly away. It is well to gather them when quite green to sow in a separate bed for the next year's root-crop. Planting the roots can be done at any time when the plants are not growing and they can be dug at any time from May to November without any material damage.

In October of last year I planted 4 ounces of seed gathered in May and this October they are all developed into fine single tubers, weighing from one to four ounces each. It has been stated that the seeds will not grow. This is not so as has been clearly shown here on the college farm and along the streams below Silver City, where many little seedling plants can be found. While the seeds are a year longer than one-year roots developing marketable tubers, it is quite a successful and sure way of getting a supply of seed-roots for future planting.

Now if the farmers will take hold of this industry, they are assured of a ready market by the Tanning Extract Co. at Deming. This company will pay \$5 per ton for all roots delivered f. o. b. at any of the railroad stations from El Paso to San Marcial.

A. E. BLOUNT,
Ag. College.

REPUBLICANS AND SILVER.

Republicans Pretend to be the Friends of Silver but Here is the Record.

Speaking of the republican state convention, one of our exchanges says:

"Whatever it will do it will pledge the party to protection of the American workman and free silver. This the republican party has always stood." Has, eh! Let us see what is the record of the republican party on the silver question. Do you my republican readers know what the record of your party is on that question? Do your republican editors know what that record is? If they do they are lying to you. Read the republican record in congress on silver and then say if that party "has always stood for silver." You never see it? Don't know where to find it? Ask some republican editor. If he don't know then get the congressional record and there find the following:

In the house April 8, 1886:	
Republicans for silver,	30
Republicans against,	98
In the house June 7, 1890:	
Republicans for,	15
Republicans against,	127

In the house June 25, 1890:	
Republicans for,	23
Republicans against,	130
In the senate June 17, 1890:	
Republicans for,	15
Republicans against,	22
In the house March 24, 1892:	
Republicans for,	11
Republicans against,	67
In the senate July 2 1892:	
Republicans for,	11
Republicans against,	19
In the house July 13, 1892:	
Republicans for,	9
Republicans against,	60
In the house August 23, 1893:	
Republicans for,	13
Republicans against,	111
In the house March 1, 1894:	
Republicans for,	19
Republicans against,	71
—Colville (Wash.) Index.	

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